

envelopes were enclosed with the request so that information could be returned at no cost to the responding system.

The first mailing produced 39 replies, of which 28 were usable, according to the criteria described below. Three replies indicated that their systems no longer operated a bookmobile service, leaving a survey population of 54 systems. A follow-up request (Appendix I-B) was mailed on May 15 to the 18 systems which had not yet replied and a request for clarification (Appendix I-C) was sent on the same date to the eight systems which had sent unusable data. These produced 13 replies, of which eight were used. A final mail request was sent on June 1 to the 13 systems for which data was still lacking and this effort yielded nine more usable replies.

Assuming that all public library bookmobiles were reported in the state *Directory*, one could say that a 100% response rate was achieved. However, only 45 of the 54 systems (see Figure 1) operating bookmobiles were able to provide usable information, so that the data used represents an 84% rate of usable responses. In two cases, systems which operated three bookmobiles submitted data for only two of their units.

Figure 2: Responses from Survey of NC Systems with Bookmobile Services Reported in the State Library Directory.

Systems contacted in survey	57
Systems replying:	
No bookmobile operating now	3
No bookmobile schedule available	4
With unusable schedule	5
With usable schedule	45
TOTAL	57

Criteria for Using Data and Procedures for Its Interpretation

Schedules for bookmobile routes provided by the systems surveyed were the most important source of data for this study. To be usable, a schedule must allow the actual time open for public service (contact time) and time used for travel between service sites (travel time) to be read directly from the schedule or to be estimated to the nearest five minutes without imposing undue assumptions. Two systems (Onslow and Rutherford Counties) reported partial data directly, rather than submitting a printed schedule, and these were used where possible.

The 48 written schedules in the survey were of four distinct types. Types I, II, and III were considered usable for the purposes of this study. An example of each type is found in Appendix II and labelled by its type, according to the following descriptions.